

Tour
Reports

DRAFT.

Fair Copy signed by

28. 9. 81

To

C.S.

SIR,

Have the honor to report
to you my return from the
Hin morning.

2. As known to you the
purpose of my departure for
Penang was my marking
trial of inspection. I was
satisfied with the work done
in the Waterfall gardens. Dr.
Hippance has put taken over
charge there: it is up to him
to begin making his mark
here, & to introduce ~~new~~
~~new~~ European ideals into the
gardening. ~~The Waterfall garden must be
open to the public on the 21st of
March & I directed the head gardener
not to do the same~~
done

REPORT ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION, AUGUST, 1910

By the Director of Gardens, S.S.

1 I left Singapore on the afternoon of August 12th for Penang, taking the Gardens' plant collector with me. It had been arranged that I was to have pastoral leave until my arrival in Malacca territory five days later; but I used this spare time I had in Penang for collecting plants, and I also visited the Interfall gardens, and saw the Resident Councillor, Penang.

2 As regards the Gardens:- the Overseer complains of the inferiority of the class of labour obtainable for the various trades. These wages are fixed by the Malay Government from time to time; but the rates will henceforward be considered also by the Interfall Gardens Committee, and I wait for the gazetting of that Committee to lay the matter before the members.

3 I examined the accounts with my budget estimate, and can order on them; and I visited all parts of the ~~2~~ Gardens.

4 The Overseer has been very successful with some Eucalyptus seed which I sent to him, having raised a large number of plants. Eucalyptus have been at times in demand in this country for the shading of oil wells, but the estate manager has little knowledge of raising them from seed as he rarely trades with any body about the conditions under which success can be obtained. He succeeds in consequently grafting. While on the subject of Eucalyptus, it may be added that one species is flowering in the abandoned experiment plantation on Government Hill at 1500 feet, apparently the same species had flowered suc-

years ago in the Waterfall gardens, and on the abandoned Kubang Ulu forest reserve in Province Wellesley. On that occasion seed from the Penang Gardens gave plenty of seedlings in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore.

I see therefore no reason why through the gardens *Bucalypta* should not be available in ~~an~~ sufficient quantities for the peninsula.

5 The re-plants were, as always under Mr. Parrott, in excellent condition.

6 The dam protecting the Central bridge caused unnecessary skill, the stream having again shifted the material (vide the last Annual Report). A large amount of stones will be ~~be~~ thrown into the bed. The leakage from the reservoir in the middle part of the Garden is also unsatisfactory; for the volume of water passing unbroken, and the leakage past in the years ago no longer suffice. These numbers of leakage are most unlikely at a time when the cost of tools from Europe forced on us the most rigid economy.

7 The stream bank below the Central bridge is being planted up with Red-stemmed Palms, etc., will shortly become in the course of a few years a very attractive sight. The avenue of Kauri trees from the main gate promises well. The boundaries of the Gardens were satisfactorily preserved.

8 The collecting station was particularly given to the Bittaraceas, which timber trees are now the subject of joint care with the Conservator of Forests. Seeds of several were brought to Singapore for study & cultivation.

One interesting Bittarcea was collected which appears to have been collected by no one since George Forster was employed in Penang ninety-five years ago.

9 From Penang I proceeded to Ipoh to have a morning's collecting there; and thence I went forward to Tumpin. I stayed in Tumpin from midnight of the 17th-18th to the night of 24th, August, visiting various places in Malacca.

10 On Sunday the 20th, I addressed the Malacca Planters Association on the subject of selection in rubber, an address which the Association proposes to print.

11 I visited many places in connection with coconut tree inspection. I found the red and the black beetles with the greatest of ease in coconut trunks, sage shrubs, and rambutan palm trunks. I have since addressed the Public Works Department of Malacca on the subject of the encouragement to the beetles that their roadside cutting leads to, and I am awaiting a reply. The Assistant Inspector under the coconut trees preservation ordinance is now stationed at Alor Gajah; and I have asked Mr. Norton the District Officer about his work. It will be necessary for me soon to carry out another inspection there in order to see that he is working in the right direction. I hope and dissociated with the work of the senior inspector in this way that he has been encouraged to show a number of prosecutions, than to produce a clean country side, and he must know that I shall judge by the latter.

12 Four years ago I started an experiment to ascertain if the small beginning tree, *Bruguiera glauca*, could be got to assert itself in tallang. A patch of tallang close to Selanjar was selected for the experiment and the seed broadcast over its parts of field rice soil. A second lot of seed was treated with ² sulfuric acid, and broadcast. It too was eaten, so that neither by

accelerating germination per by making what might be thought an unplantable seed-coat did not escape the rats. At the time I was in charge of Forest Work, the Selander was always a place that had to be visited. Later I again scattered broadcast untreated seed. Some of this has now established itself, but not in abundance. Unfortunately the fallowing rates had been supplied for, and my particular experiment at Selander must end. But the District Officer said, selected for me a fresh place which he considered to be beyond any extension of cultivation likely to occur: and there I have broadcast afresh seed and also dibbled seed in. I have also done the same on the north of Bukit Payong in the Alor Gajah Division, and broadcast seed on the south of Bukit Sialang (*that which is wanton*
August, *Bencaena* clumps would if abundant serve as a supply of firmer, and it makes a splendid nurse for longer trees. If therefore at a mere nominal cost it could be got to the possession of fallowing land, much good would be done.

Herbarium specimens were collected as occasion allowed but the Dipterocarps in the neighbourhood of Larut must have been removed from the forests long ago: and there was no opportunity of visiting the *richer* forests in the north-east of the territory of Malacca.

I left Singapore by rail on July 1st 1911
arriving at Kuala Lumpur about
midnight. The following day was occupied
in sending off the heavy baggage
to Kuala Kangsar, and making
several arrangements. and July 3 I left
for Kuala Kangsar, with Mr. Robinson
the same evening the carts with the
collectors and baggage left for Grit.
Mr. Robinson and I drove to Lebong on
July 4, and were here overtaken by Mr.
Klass who had come from Taiping.

We remained at Lebong that night
and reached Grit, 40 miles next day
July 5. Here we engaged eleven
elephants to carry the baggage and
sent them on July 6. to Kuala Temang
We started to walk to Kuala Temang
17 miles next day, and overtook the
elephants four miles short of the
village. Remained at this place for
the night and started next morning
for Kuala Temang 13 miles which we
reached about midday. the elephants
arriving at 3.15.

It was hoped that after exploring
this mountain district we might be
able to reach the higher mountains
lying to the South East, but shortly
after our arrival we heard through

to Peugkulu that the District Officer
Dr Berkeley had commanded all
the elephants in the district - including
the two belonging to the Go Ra Ray
of the Teuado. We however living
there sick remained at the village
I remained at this place till July
20. Making excursions with the
plant collector every day to in search
of plants, as far as we could get in the
day. The place was a very unhealthy
one, all or almost all were more or
less sick from time to time, with diarrhoea
and fever, I suffered much from poisoned
leech bites in the legs and toward the
end of our stay was unable to wear shoes
and could only walk with difficulty.
The flora though distinct in character
from other localities I had visited
was rather poor, and remarkably
homogeneous, ~~possibly its~~ ~~comparatively~~
to a long spell of dry weather here
for some months previously had put
a large percentage of the trees out of
flower, The hills were largely covered
with bambos and Bokta forest and
these kinds of localities are always
very poor in species, However we
managed to obtain a very large
series of plants including a con-
siderable number of novelties

and of much interest. The district seemed to be unusually rich in small plants of the order Umbelliferae. Many of which will I think prove new. The forests were rather poor in timber. Dipteroscopps being few, so much so that Damar was hardly to be reckoned among the forest produce collected by the Germans. The most conspicuous timber tree was Guiban which was abundant and of very large size. The fine tree Englehardtia allied to the Walnut was very abundant and is usually a fine timber. A very striking oak tree was abundant at the Teuangs, rather remarkable for its comparatively small size. The curious and uncommon parasitic plant Rafflesia was met with in flower on two occasions.

After exhausting the accessible district round the Teuangs village, as no elephant transport was available, an attempt was made to procure coolies to carry the necessary stores etc further in to the forest for a day or two to get a fresh hare. & if possible to get to a higher level. The Ute Teuangs village which extends mainly along a valley of rice fields is said to be the second largest village in the District, and contains a

fairly large population, several
hundreds, but after much trouble
we could only obtain two coolies who
were willing at the high rate of a dollar
a day to help to carry the baggage.
This was due in large measure to the
fact that the natives were quite unused
to seeing Europeans, and were in great
fear that we should kill them & take
the children etc. so nervous were they that
on our arrival the children refused to
go to school, the school being near the
house we were occupying, except under
a guard of adults, and several families
used to crowd in to me but at night
barreled themselves up for fear of a
raid. In addition to this the greater
part at least of the Malays were
opium smokers, the opium is imported
from Quitt, by two Chinese shopkeepers
in the village and sold to the
Malays at \$3.50 a tablet. One of the
two coolies I took to carry baggage told me
that he had only started to using opium
for two years, that he spent seven dollars
annually on it, and had sold all his
buffalo, goats and fields, and was in
a very poor way, he was anxious to get
some drug to stop the craving, & proposed
to go to just hospital to get cured. Before
starting with me he had an advance of a

dollar which he immediately spent in opium and a little tobacco and by the time we reached camp had used all the opium and was feeling the pangs want of more. The rice fields were evidently neglected. I thought it was the season for plowing, ~~or~~ two or three children & one or two men were all that were to be seen digging the weeds out of the fields.

With such a wretched lot of villagers it was hardly to be wondered at that we were unable to induce any to act as carriers.

As it was impossible to get more than two men it was decided that I alone should go a day journey into the forest & camp there for some days collecting. The baggage being carried by some of the hired collectors byaks belonging to Mr. Robinson & the two coolies. I therefore started early along the track by the Temengor river ~~to~~ on the 20th. The opium-smoking coolie broke down about the end of the first mile but we managed to get him along, though eventually my boy had to carry his load for him most of the way. About two o'clock the road was so heavy and the men so exhausted that we elected to stop and camp where we were on an old Semang clearing by the river.

back, and in an hour or two had put up some huts of sticks and leaves under which we could put the baggage and get out of the rain. All of course were wet through and I was by this time very lame in both legs from ulcerations.

21 The Dyaks went on from camp for some miles to try and find the more accessible hills of any altitude but nothing accessible without better steamer was to be seen. The plant collector and I went along the track by the river to collect and obtained a good many new & rare plants, but he was suffering badly from fever and diarrhoea, and I was hardly able to walk without much pain, & also ill from diarrhoea & slight fever so we returned about 3 o'clock.

22 The Dyaks & coolies returned to the camp and I & the plant collector went out collecting

23. Both the plant collector & myself were hardly able to do more than ^{callous} creep about camp.

24 Both feeling better we explored the river banks, wading up the river for some miles. and obtained a good collection

25 Mr Klass had sent a note saying that the men would come to fetch us this day so we did not go far from camp. I got everything ready to return. In the evening the To Kee Kong

several elephants came and on 27th I returned
on it to the Mu Temango.

On 28th we prepared every thing to return
down the Temango river to Guit.
by Rafts.

29th Started on the rafts (four) and
reached ~~Gecko~~ Kuala Temango by
midday. Said the plant collector went
in the afternoon to collect plants in the
woods close by. One of the men ^{had} ~~had~~
30. Dr Mr Robinson was now very seriously
ill with fever, we endeavoured for him to the
hospital at Guit where he died some days later
30." Left Kuala Temango on the rafts
now reduced to three & enlarged for
Guit. By the way one of the coolies
announced that he had seen at Kuala
Temango four elephants going up to the
Mu with the rest of the baggage that
we had had to leave at Guit for want of
sufficient elephants. Three weeks previously
and which Mr D. had promised should
follow next day. It was too late now to
stop the elephants, & bring back the baggage
we had left the collections zoological and
botanical at Mu Temango under the
charge of some of the Dyaks. as we were afraid to
risk them in the rapids of the Perak river
and hoped to get elephants from Guit to bring
them down. This was however impossible
and the Dyaks eventually brought the
whole collections down quite unharmed to ~~say~~

by raft.

We reached Kuala Kening about 6 o'clock, put the baggage into a boat for the night & walked to Girit 2 1/2 miles

On arriving at the Rest House I found that the rest house keeper and cook had been taken by the District Officer on his expedition to the new territory and the only people in the house were an old Chinaman and a Malay boy about 12 years old. Two other government officers arrived the same night ~~and~~ having telegraphed for food, but ~~then~~ the telegram had not been received & there was no food for them. It does not seem right that rest houses intended for travellers should be defaced in this way.

One of the officers above mentioned was Dr Bridges and he kindly dressed my injuries but I was now unable to walk.

Aug 1. The baggage having been brought to the rest house went on in carts to Segony and Aug 3. we followed ^{in horses} reaching Segony in the evening 40 miles. The carts had

arrived that morning & the plant collector had taken the opportunity to explore the limestone hills in the neighbourhood making an excellent collection.

Aug 4 Drove to Kuala Kauyra & reached Leiping the evening by train.

5 I remained in Mr. Khas's House for
some days, unable to move about much.
The plant collector meanwhile collected
on the Paraiyer hills till Aug 8. when
it was considered necessary for me
to go into the hospital. The plant collector
also went to hospital with severe fever
while in hospital 12th I was attacked
with severe subtertian fever. and
remained in hospital till the 20th.
It had been intended I should go on to
the Agricultural exhibition and later
to Sertel to collect plants. This
was made impossible by my illness.
Left hospital on the 20th and went
to Penang and 21st embarked on
St. Kistna arriving in Singapore
in the morning of the 23rd.
In spite of the difficulties already
detailed and the account of sickness
in the unhealthiness of the district
a good ~~and~~ collection of plants
for the herbarium was made and
a number of live plants and seeds
of interest were dredged successfully
to the gardens, no opportunity was
lost of collecting both on the
March and in camp. The plant-
collector Mat, in spite of constant
fever and disease collected &
prepared specimens steadily.

and my boy as well as some of the
Dyak bird-collectors assisted by
making bamboo presses and helping
to dry the plants in the sun whenever
necessary. As the weather was generally
very hot the plants put in small
lots in the bamboo & were pressed
we had made & brought dried well
in a very few days, enabling us to
work fast. It is hoped to prepare
a full account of the expedition &
of the plants & animals collected
as soon as is possible.

I enclose with this a medical certificate
from Dr. Denme of the Packing
Hospital as to my fitness there.